

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

The following "Listing of the Claims" will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method for killing at least 99.9% of the anthrax spores in a fluid, comprising the steps of:

- a) passing a fluid containing anthrax spores through one positive-displacement pump or more through multiple positive-displacement pumps connected in series; and,
- b) operating the one positive-displacement pump or more multiple positive-displacement pumps connected in series at a pressure ratio or pressure ratios such that the passage of the fluid containing anthrax spores through the one positive-displacement pump or through the multiple more positive-displacement pumps connected in series kills at least 99.9% of the anthrax spores in the fluid.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the one positive displacement pump or at least one of the one or more multiple positive-displacement pumps connected in series is operated at a pressure ratio exceeding the recommended operating pressure limitations for the one positive displacement pump or at least one of the one or more multiple positive-displacement pumps connected in series.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the one positive displacement pump or at least one of the one or more multiple positive-displacement pumps connected in series is operated at a pressure ratio of at least 2.0.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the one positive displacement pump or at least one of the one or more multiple positive-displacement pumps connected in series is operated at a pressure ratio sufficient to raise the

temperature of the fluid containing biological contaminants passing through the one positive displacement pump or at least one of the one or more multiple positive-displacement pumps connected in series to at least 200 °C.

42. (Previously Presented) A method for killing at least 99.9% of the anthrax spores in a fluid, comprising the steps of:

- a) passing a fluid containing anthrax spores through a positive-displacement pump; and,
- b) operating the positive-displacement pump at a pressure ratio of at least 2.0 such that the passage of the fluid containing anthrax spores through the positive-displacement pump kills at least 99.9% of the anthrax spores in the fluid.